

## Harris raised \$200 million in first week of White House campaign and signed up 170,000 volunteers

By AAMER MADHANI,  
BILL BARROW, and  
MICHELLE L. PRICE  
Associated Press

Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign has raised \$200 million since she emerged as the likely Democratic presidential nominee last week, an eyepopping haul in her race against the Republican nominee, former President Donald Trump. The campaign, which announced its latest fundraising total on Sunday, said the bulk of the donations — 66% — comes from first-time contributors in the 2024 election cycle and were made after President Joe Biden announced his exit from the race and endorsed Harris.



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Vice President Kamala Harris boards Air Force Two as she departs Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport in Westfield, Mass., Saturday, July 27, 2024. Harris is returning to Washington after participating in a political event in Pittsfield, Mass.

Associated Press.

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# Harris raised \$200 million in first week of White House campaign and signed up 170,000 volunteers

Continued from Front

Over 170,000 volunteers have also signed up to help the Harris campaign with phone banking, canvassing and other get-out-the-vote efforts. Election Day is 100 days away.

"The momentum and energy for Vice President Harris is real — and so are the fundamentals of this race: this election will be very close and decided by a small number of voters in just a few states," Michael Tyler, the campaign's communications director, wrote in a memo.

Her campaign said it held some 2,300 organizing events in battleground states this weekend as several high-

profile Democrats under consideration to serve as Harris' running mate stumped for her.

Harris campaigned in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on Saturday, drawing hundreds to a fundraiser that had been organized when Biden was still at the top of the Democratic ticket. The fundraiser had originally been expected to raise \$400,000 but ended bringing in about \$1.4 million, according to the campaign.

Mandy Robbins, 45, of Decatur, Georgia, drove to one of those organizing events Sunday in the northern suburbs of Atlanta to hear Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, a potential Harris running mate. She thought Biden did a "great job" in the White

House, but acknowledged she "would not have been nearly this excited" if he remained in the race.

"I finally feel hopeful now," Robbins said. She added, "We can win this with Harris." Beshear spoke from experience to supporters, telling them their work could be the difference in what's expected to be a close race. Beshear won his 2019 campaign by a margin of about 5,000 votes of 1.41 million ballots cast. He was reelected in November by a relatively comfortable margin.

"Every door knock mattered. Every phone call mattered. Every difficult conversation that people had with their uncle at Thanksgiving mattered," Beshear said of his 2019 race. "Everyone here



Vice President Kamala Harris, right, salutes upon arrival at Andrews Air Force Base in Md., Saturday, July 27, 2024. Harris is returning to Washington after participating in a political event in Pittsfield, Mass.

Associated Press

today that signs up to volunteer ... you might be the difference in winning this race for Vice President Harris."

Meanwhile, Trump, running mate Sen. JD Vance and their surrogates stepped up efforts to frame Harris as a far-left politician out of touch with the American mainstream.

Vance said after a stop at a diner in Waite Park, Minnesota, on Sunday that Harris has "got a little bit of a bump from her introduction" but predicted it would soon dissipate.

"Look, the people are going to learn her record," Vance said. "They're going to learn that she's a radical. They're going to learn that she's basically a San Francisco liberal who wants to take San Francisco policies to the entire country."

Vance was echoing Trump, who in a campaign appearance with Vance in St. Cloud, Minnesota on Saturday, called Harris a "crazy liberal," accused her of wanting to "defund the police" and said she was an "absolute radical" on abortion. Harris, a vocal proponent of abortion rights, has made clear that she will make Republican-backed efforts to restrict reproductive rights a key plank in her campaign.

"There is no liberal horse that she has chosen not to ride," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. "Trump backer Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., also tried to brand Harris as a full partner for "a lot of the worst deci-

sions of the Biden administration," including the chaotic August 2021 pullout of U.S. troops led to the swift collapse of the Afghan government and military.

Cotton also accused Harris of emboldening Iranian proxies Hamas and Hezbollah by pressing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over civilian casualties in the war in Gaza.

Netanyahu met separately with Harris and Biden at the White House on Thursday. Afterward, Harris said she urged Netanyahu to reach a cease-fire deal soon with the militant group Hamas so that dozens of hostages held by the militants in Gaza since Oct. 7 can return home. Harris said she also affirmed Israel's right to defend itself but expressed deep concern about the high death toll in Gaza and the "dire" humanitarian situation there. Tensions in the Mideast intensified on Saturday after Israeli authorities said a rocket from Lebanon struck a soccer field in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, killing 12 children and teenagers. The strike raised fears of a broader regional war between Israel and Hezbollah, which denied a role in the attack.

Trump at his Saturday rally said the Golan Heights incident "will go down as another moment in history created by a weak and ineffective United States president and vice president." And Vance on Sunday accused Harris of being "a disaster" on the conflict. □

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# NYC mayor issues emergency order suspending parts of new solitary confinement law

By DAVE COLLINS  
Associated Press

New York City's mayor issued an emergency order Saturday suspending parts of a new law intended to ban solitary confinement in local jails a day before it was to take effect, citing concerns for the safety of staff and detainees.

Mayor Eric Adams declared a state of emergency and signed an order that suspended parts of the law that set a four-hour time limit on holding prisoners who pose safety concerns in "de-escalation confinement" and limit the use of restraints on prisoners while they are transported to courts or within jails. The four-hour limit could only be exceeded only in "exceptional circumstances." In those circumstances, prisoners would be released from de-escalation confinement "as soon as practicable" and when they no longer pose an imminent risk of serious injury to themselves or others, according to the mayor's order. Adams also suspended a part of the law that prohibited jail officials from placing a prisoner in longer-term "restrictive housing" for more than a total of 60 days in any 12-month period. His order says jail officials must review a prisoner's placement in restrictive housing every 15 days.

"It is of the utmost importance to protect the health and safety of all persons in



Mayor Eric Adams speaks during a news conference at the New York City Emergency Management Department on Friday April 5, 2024 in New York.

Associated Press.

the custody of the Department of Correction and of all officers and persons who work in the City of New York jails and who transport persons in custody to court and other facilities, and the public," Adams wrote in his state of emergency declaration. Adams had vetoed the City Council's approval of the bill, but the council overrode the veto in January.

City Council leaders did not immediately return messages seeking comment Saturday. But council spokesperson Shirley Limongi issued a statement sharply criticizing Adams.

"Each day Mayor Adams'

Administration shows how little respect it has for the laws and democracy, it sets more hypocritical double standards for complying with the law that leave New Yorkers worse off. In this case, our city and everyone in its dysfunctional and dangerous jail system, including staff, are left less safe. The reality is that the law already included broad safety exemptions that make this 'emergency order' unnecessary and another example of Mayor Adams overusing executive orders without justification," the statement said.

The bill had been introduced by New York City Public Ad-

vocate Jumaane Williams, who argued solitary confinement amounts to torture for those subjected to lengthy hours in isolation in small jail cells.

Williams and other supporters of the new law, including prominent members of New York's congressional delegation, have pointed to research showing solitary confinement, even only for a few days, increases the likelihood an inmate will die by suicide, violence or overdose.

It also leads to acute anxiety, depression, psychosis and other impairments that may reduce an inmate's

ability to reintegrate into society when they are released, they said.

Adams has insisted there has been no solitary confinement in jails since it was eliminated in 2019. He said solitary confinement is defined as "22 hours or more per day in a locked cell and without meaningful human contact." He said de-escalation confinement and longer-term restrictive housing are needed to keep violent prisoners from harming other prisoners and staff.

Jail officials, the guards' union and a federal monitor appointed to evaluate operations at city jails objected to parts of the new law, also citing safety concerns.

The law places a four-hour limit on isolating inmates who pose an immediate risk of violence to others or themselves in de-escalation units. Only those involved in violent incidents could be placed in longer-term restrictive housing, and they would need to be allowed out of their cells for 14 hours each day and get access to the same programming available to other inmates.

Adams' state of emergency declaration will remain in effect for up to 30 days or until it is rescinded, whichever is earlier, with 30-day extensions possible.

The order suspending parts of the new law will be in effect for five days unless terminated or modified earlier. □

## Minnesota prepares for influx of patients from Iowa as abortion ban takes effect

Associated Press

Minnesota medical providers and public officials are preparing to welcome patients traveling from Iowa, where a ban on most abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy goes into effect Monday. On Thursday, Minnesota's Democratic Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan toured the Whole Woman's Health of Minnesota, a nonprofit abortion clinic in the city of Bloomington. She welcomed Iowa residents who were seeking abortions after the state's new restrictions take effect.

Previously, abortion was legal up to 20 weeks of pregnancy in Iowa. Last July, the state's Republican-controlled legislature passed a new ban on the procedure after six weeks of pregnancy, which is often before women know they are pregnant. There are limited exceptions in cases of rape, incest, fetal abnormality or when the life of the mother is

in danger. Sarah Traxler, an OB-GYN based in Minnesota and the chief medical officer of Planned Parenthood North Central States, said Iowa's law could have ripple effects throughout the region. "When the Dobbs decision came down, many of the patients coming to Iowa were from Missouri," Traxler said in an interview with Minnesota Public Radio. "This is going to have resounding impacts on the region itself, especially the Midwest and the South."

The Iowa Supreme Court reiterated in June that there is no constitutional right to an abortion in the state and ordered a hold on the law to be lifted. The district court judge's orders last week set July 29 as the first day of enforcement.

Across the country, the state of abortion access has been changing ever since the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health

Organization. Trigger laws immediately went into effect, new restrictions were passed, court battles put those on hold and in some places, there was expanded access. In states with restrictions, the main abortion options are getting pills by mail or underground networks and traveling, vastly driving up demand in states with more access. Whole Woman's Health of Minnesota has served patients from South Dakota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Indiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Florida and Arkansas over the past year. Amy Hagstrom Miller, founder and CEO of the clinic, said she expects to see an increase in patient demand after Iowa's restrictions take effect. Flanagan said Minnesota would remain committed to serving people traveling from other states seeking abortion care.

"If you're afraid, come to Minnesota," Flanagan said. "We've got you." □

# The US and China air global differences as their top diplomats meet for sixth time since last year

By **MATTHEW LEE**  
AP Diplomatic Writer

The United States and China on Saturday renewed their mutual grievances as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his Chinese counterpart held their sixth meeting since last year amid an uncertain political situation in the U.S. and growing concerns about China's increasing assertiveness in Asia and elsewhere.

Blinken and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met for roughly an hour and 20 minutes on the sidelines of an annual Southeast Asian regional security forum in Vientiane, Laos, at which tensions between China and U.S. ally Philippines over disputes in the South China Sea were a prime focus of discussion.

U.S. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said Blinken and Wang had had "an open and productive" discussion but had not reached any significant agreements on the issues that divide them most in the Indo-Pacific, Europe and the Americas.

"The United States will continue to take necessary actions to safeguard our interests and values, and those of our allies and partners, including on human rights," Blinken told Wang, according to Miller.

Blinken "made clear that the United States, together with our allies and partners, will advance our vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific," he said, highlighting recently aggressive Chinese actions toward Taiwan, the self-governing island that Beijing claims as part of the mainland and has vowed to reunify by force if necessary.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement that despite regular contacts, "the U.S. has not stopped its containment and sup-



**U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, shakes hands with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sideline of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Vientiane, Laos, Saturday, July 27, 2024.**

Associated Press.

pression of China and has even further intensified it." The statement said the risks to China-U.S. ties "are still accumulating and the challenges are also rising" and that "it is necessary to constantly calibrate the direction, manage risks, properly handle differences, eliminate disturbance and promote cooperation."

Blinken scolded China for "destabilizing actions in the South China Sea" and "affirmed the United States' support for freedom of navigation and overflight and the peaceful resolution of disputes, consistent with international law," Miller said. America's top diplomat did praise China and the Philippines for concluding an agreement earlier this week that allowed the Philippines on Saturday to make a sup-

ply trip to the disputed area without having to confront Beijing's forces, the first such trip since the deal was concluded.

"We are pleased to take note of the successful resupply today at the Second Thomas Shoal," Blinken told Association of Southeast Asian Nations foreign ministers before his meeting with Wang. "We applaud that and hope and expect to see that it continues going forward."

Prior to the deal, tensions between the Philippines and China escalated for months, with China's coast guard and other forces using powerful water cannons and dangerous blocking maneuvers to prevent food and other supplies from reaching Filipino navy personnel.

Still, Blinken, who will be in Manila next week as part of his current six-country tour of Asia, also deplored China's "escalatory and unlawful actions taken against the Philippines in the South China Sea over the last few months."

In his meeting with Wang, Blinken also re-raised deep U.S. and European concerns about China's support of Russia's defense industrial sector that Washington and capitals in Europe believe Russia is using to ramp up the production of weapons for use in its war against Ukraine. Blinken "made clear that if (China) does not act to address this threat to European security, the United States will continue to take appropriate measures to do so," Miller said. Since that warning was first issued more than a year ago, the U.S. and others have imposed sanctions on more than 300 Russian and Chinese firms engaged in the trade.

Asked whether the Chinese had responded to those

sanctions in the way the U.S. and its allies would like, a senior State Department official said "not enough that our concerns have been put to rest." The official spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss the private diplomatic meeting.

Blinken's Asia trip was announced just hours after President Joe Biden said he would step down as a candidate in November's election in favor of Vice President Kamala Harris. Although the senior official said that decision had not come up in Saturday's meetings, he said Blinken had pointed out to Wang that Harris had experience with China and had met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Bangkok in 2022.

Also present at the ASEAN meeting in Laos was Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, but the senior official said Blinken had no interactions with him.

From Laos, Blinken flew to Hanoi for a brief stop to offer condolences for the passing last week of Vietnam's powerful Communist Party chief and was to travel on to Japan, the Philippines, Singapore and Mongolia.

In Tokyo and Manila on Sunday and Monday, Blinken will be joined by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin where they will meet with their Japanese and Filipino counterparts to shore up defense cooperation. Blinken will also meet in Tokyo with the Indian and South Korean foreign ministers.

For the past six decades, there have been large U.S. troop deployments in Japan and South Korea and a mutual defense treaty with the Philippines has been a constant of American policy in Asia.

Former President Donald Trump, now the Republican candidate for president, cast doubt on the usefulness of U.S. alliances around the world during his first term in office and suggested that the American military presence in Japan and South Korea could be reduced or eliminated. □



# Italy and China sign a 3-year action plan as Italian leader Meloni tries to reset relations

By KEN MORITSUGU

Associated Press

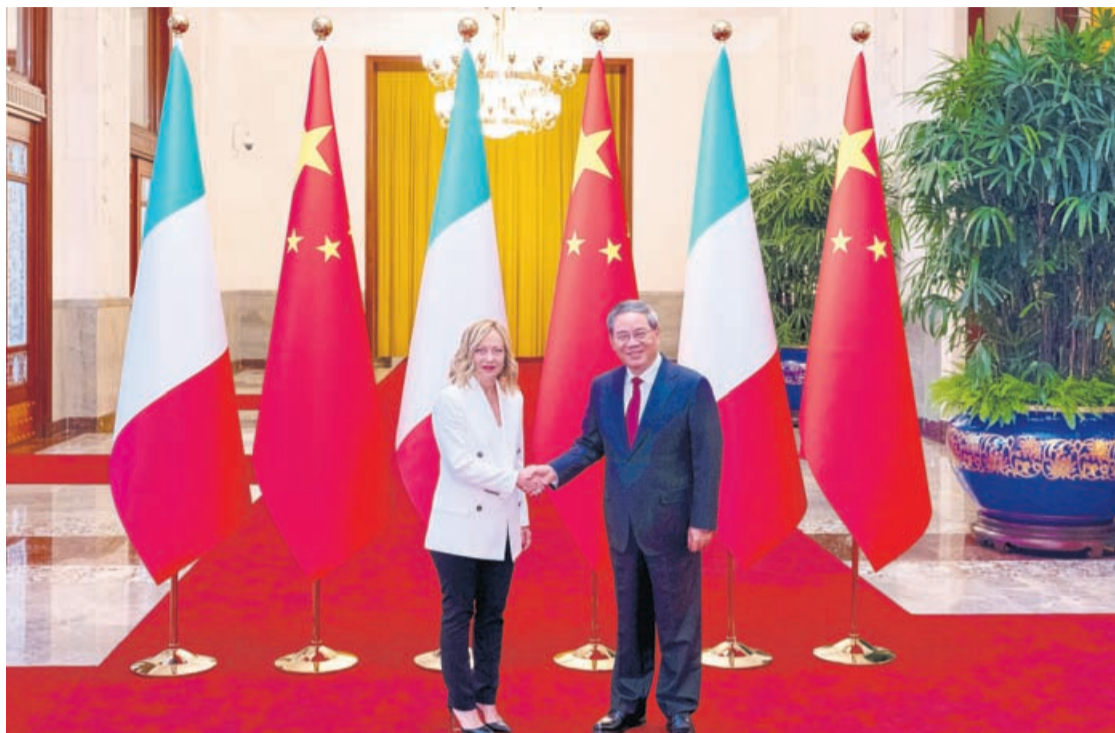
Italy and China signed a three-year action plan on Sunday to implement past agreements and experiment with new forms of cooperation, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said on an official visit to the Chinese capital.

Meloni is trying to reset relations with China as fears of a trade war with the European Union are interwoven with continued interest in attracting Chinese investment in auto manufacturing and other sectors.

"We certainly have a lot of work to do and I am convinced that this work can be useful in such a complex phase on a global level, and also important at a multilateral level," she said in remarks at the start of a meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang.

Her five-day visit comes several months after Italy dropped out of China's Belt and Road Initiative, a signature policy of Chinese leader Xi Jinping to build power and transportation infrastructure around the world to stimulate global trade while also deepening China's ties with other nations.

Still, Italy remains keen to pursue an otherwise strong economic relationship with China. Stellantis, a major au-



Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni shakes hands with Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Beijing, Sunday, July 28, 2024, ahead of a forum with Italian and Chinese business leaders. Meloni is on an official visit to China this week to try to reset relations at a time of both fears of a trade war with the European Union and continued interest in attracting Chinese investment in auto manufacturing and other sectors.

tomaker that includes Italy's Fiat, announced in May that it had formed a joint venture with Leapmotor, a Chinese electric car startup, to begin selling EVs in Europe.

Li, addressing Italian and Chinese business leaders after the meeting with Meloni, said that China's push to upgrade its economy will increase demand for high-quality products, expanding opportunities for cooperation between companies from

their two countries.

He pledged to open Chinese markets further, ensure that foreign companies get the same treatment as Chinese ones and create a transparent and predictable business environment, responding to frequently heard complaints from businesses operating in the world's second-largest economy.

"At the same time, we hope the Italian side will work with China to provide a more fair,

just and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese companies doing business in Italy," he said. Meloni told the business leaders that the two sides had signed an industrial collaboration memorandum that includes electric vehicles and renewable energy, which she described as "sectors where China has already been operating on the technological frontier for some time ... and is sharing the

new frontiers of knowledge with partners."

Electric vehicles have also become a symbol of growing China-EU trade tensions, with the European Union imposing provisional tariffs of up to 37.6% on China-made electric vehicles in early July. The two sides are holding talks to try to resolve the issue by an early November deadline.

Meanwhile, China launched an anti-dumping investigation into European pork exports, just days after the EU announced it would impose the tariffs on Chinese EVs.

Meloni, who arrived in Beijing on Saturday, is making her first trip to China as prime minister. She has held talks with Li before, meeting in New Delhi last September during the annual G-20 summit, which brings together the leaders of 20 major nations.

Italy's decision to join the Belt and Road Initiative in 2019 appeared to be a political coup for China, giving it an inroad into Western Europe and a symbolic boost in a then-raging trade war with the United States. But Italy says the promised economic benefits didn't materialize, and its membership created friction with other Western European governments and the United States. □

Associated Press.

## Reformist formally takes over as Iran's president after supreme leader offers endorsement

By NASSER KARIMI

Associated Press

Iran's supreme leader on Sunday formally endorsed Masoud Pezeshkian as president, allowing the reformist politician and heart surgeon to take charge of a country weakened by economic sanctions over its nuclear program. During an endorsement ceremony, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged Pezeshkian to prioritize neighbors, African and Asian nations as well as countries that have "supported and helped" Iran in Tehran's foreign relations policies.

Khamenei criticized European nations for "behaving badly to us" by adopting

sanctions, an oil embargo and for calling out alleged human rights abuses.

He also condemned Israel for its actions in Gaza in the deaths of children, women and hospitalized people "who did not shoot a single bullet" against Israeli forces. "The Zionist regime is showing its ugliest face as a war criminal," said Khamenei, accusing Israel of setting a "new record in assassinations" and cruelty. He also denounced the U.S. Congress for allowing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address the legislative body.

Speaking at the same ceremony, Pezeshkian paid homage to Gen. Qassem

Soleimani, the architect of Iran's regional military activities, who was killed in U.S. drone attack in 2020. He reiterated his promise to pursue a "constructive and efficient" foreign policy, bolster the rule of law offer equal opportunities to citizens, support families and protect the environment.

In his first official act in office, Pezeshkian appointed Mohammad Reza Aref, 72, as his first vice-president. Aref, who's considered a moderate reformist, held the post between 2001-2005 under former president Mohammad Khatami. Aref holds a doctorate in engineering from Stanford University.



In this photo released by an official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, center, gives his official seal of approval to newly elected President Masoud Pezeshkian, as acting President Mohammad Mokhber stands at left, in an endorsement ceremony in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, July 28, 2024.

Associated Press.

Pezeshkian takes over from his predecessor Ebrahim Raisi whose death in a May helicopter crash that sparked the early election. He will

take the oath of office in parliament Tuesday and will have two weeks to form his own cabinet for a vote of confidence in parliament. □

# Venezuelan election could lead to a seismic shift in politics or give President Maduro 6 more years

By REGINA GARCIA CANO  
Associated Press

Venezuelans are voting Sunday in a presidential election whose outcome will either lead to a seismic shift in politics or extend by six more years the policies that caused the world's worst peacetime economic collapse.

Whether it is President Nicolás Maduro who is chosen, or his main opponent, retired diplomat Edmundo González, the election will have ripple effects throughout the Americas. Government opponents and supporters alike have signaled their interest in joining the exodus of 7.7 million Venezuelans who have already left their homes for opportunities abroad should Maduro win another term.

Polls opened at 6 a.m., but voters started lining up at some voting centers across the country much earlier, sharing water, coffee and snacks for several hours.

Alejandro Sulbarán snagged the first spot at his voting center by getting in line at 5 p.m. Saturday. He said he stood outside an elementary school in a hillside suburb of the capital, Caracas, for "the future of the country."

"We are all here for the change we want," Sulbarán, 74, who runs a maintenance business, said as other voters nodded in agreement.

The number of eligible voters for this presidential election is estimated to be around 17 million. Polls will close at 6 p.m. local time, but it was unclear when electoral authorities will release the first results.

Authorities set Sunday's election to coincide with what would have been the 70th birthday of former President Hugo Chávez, the revered leftist firebrand who died of cancer in 2013, leaving his Bolivarian revolution in the hands of Maduro. But Maduro and his United Socialist Party of Venezuela are more unpopular than ever among many voters who blame his policies for crushing wages, spurring hunger, crippling the oil industry and separating families due to migration.

Maduro, 61, is facing off against an opposition that



Voters line up outside a polling station that reads in Spanish "Vote" during the presidential election in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, July 28, 2024.

Associated Press.

has managed to line up behind a single candidate after years of intraparty divisions and election boycotts that torpedoed their ambitions to topple the ruling party.

González is representing a coalition of opposition parties after being selected in April as a last-minute stand-in for opposition powerhouse Maria Corina Machado, who was blocked by the Maduro-controlled Supreme Tribunal of Justice from running for any office for 15 years.

Machado, a former lawmaker, swept the opposition's October primary with over 90% of the vote. After she was blocked from joining the presidential race, she chose a college professor as her substitute on the ballot, but the National Electoral Council also barred her from registering. That's when González, a political newcomer, was chosen.

Sunday's ballot also features eight other candidates challenging Maduro, but only González threatens Maduro's rule.

After voting, Maduro said he would recognize the election result and urged all other candidates to publicly declare that they would do the same.

"No one is going to create chaos in Venezuela," Maduro said. "I recognize and will recognize the electoral referee, the official announcements and I will make sure they are recognized."

Venezuela sits atop the

world's largest proven oil reserves, and once boasted Latin America's most advanced economy. But it entered into a free fall after Maduro took the helm. Plummeting oil prices, widespread shortages and hyperinflation that soared past 130,000% led first to social unrest and then mass emigration.

Economic sanctions from U.S. seeking to force Maduro from power after his 2018 reelection — which the U.S. and dozens of other countries condemned as illegitimate — only deepened the crisis.

Maduro's pitch to voters this election is one of economic security, which he tried to sell with stories of entrepreneurship and references to a stable currency exchange and lower inflation rates. The International Monetary Fund forecasts the economy will grow 4% this year — one of the fastest in Latin America — after having shrunk 71% from 2012 to 2020.

But most Venezuelans have not seen any improvement in their quality of life. Many earn under \$200 a month, which means families struggle to afford essential items. Some work second and third jobs. A basket of basic staples — sufficient to feed of family of four for a month — costs an estimated \$385.

Judith Cantilla, 52, voted to change those conditions.

"For me, change in Venezuela (is) that there are jobs, that there's security, there's

medicine in the hospitals, good pay for the teachers, for the doctors," she said, casting her ballot in the working-class Petare neighborhood of Caracas.

Elsewhere, Liana Ibarra, a manicurist in greater Caracas, got in line at 3 a.m. Sunday with her water, coffee and cassava snack-laden backpack only to find at least 150 people ahead of her. "There used to be a lot of indifference toward elections, but not anymore," Ibarra said.

She said that if González loses, she will ask her relatives living in the U.S. to sponsor her and her son's application to legally emigrate there. "We can't take it anymore," she said.

The opposition has tried to seize on the huge inequities arising from the crisis, during which Venezuelans abandoned their country's currency, the bolivar, for the U.S. dollar.

González and Machado focused much of their campaigning on Venezuela's vast hinterland, where the economic activity seen in Caracas in recent years didn't materialize. They promised a government that would create sufficient jobs to attract Venezuelans living abroad to return home and reunite with their families.

After voting at a church-adjacent poll site in an upper-class Caracas neighborhood, González called on the country's armed forces

to respect "the decision of our people."

"What we see today are lines of joy and hope," González, 74, told reporters. "We will change hatred for love. We will change poverty for progress. We will change corruption for honesty. We will change goodbyes for reunions."

An April poll by Caracas-based Delphos said about a quarter of Venezuelans were thinking about emigrating if Maduro wins Sunday. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

Most Venezuelans who migrated over the past 11 years settled in Latin America and the Caribbean. In recent years, many began setting their sights on the U.S.

Both campaigns have distinguished themselves not only for the political movements they represent but also on how they have addressed voters' hopes and fears.

Maduro's campaign rallies featured lively electronic merengue dancing as well as speeches attacking his opponents. But after he caught heat from leftist allies such as Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva for a comment about a "bloodbath" should he lose, Maduro recoiled. His son told the Spanish newspaper El Pais that the ruling party would peacefully hand over the presidency if it loses — a rare admission of vulnerability out of step with Maduro campaign's triumphalist tone.

In contrast, the rallies of González and Machado prompted people to cry and chant "Freedom! Freedom!" as the duo passed by. People handed the devout Catholics rosaries, walked along highways and went through military checkpoints to reach their events. Others video-called their relatives who have migrated to let them catch a glimpse of the candidates.

"We do not want more Venezuelans leaving, and to those who have left I say that we will do everything possible to get them back here, and we will welcome them with open arms," González said Sunday. □



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**ORANJESTAD** - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

### Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind

of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

### Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided

to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its port-side in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

### Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old



capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

### Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □



# 2,000,000

## SUMMER

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## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD** — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

## Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

**(Oranjestad)**—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.



Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Eileen and Bruno Santini from Mount Kisco, New York, USA.**

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to us is about the island's natural beauty and its happy friendly people. We came to Aruba for our Honeymoon in June of 1974. We stayed at the Divi Divi and fell in love with Aruba. The wonderful colors of the Caribbean Sea and the amazing white coral beaches. We rented a motorcycle and began to explore the island.

We rode north to the California Lighthouse gasping at breathtaking views of its coastline filled with divi divi trees and coral formation. Driving along on a dirt road each turn provided us with another fantastic view. As we got to the Lighthouse we saw wind-swept sand dunes with shades of blue and green waters as their background, a painter's masterpiece. We were on the rough side of Aruba.

As we continued on, every once and a while we saw small sandy beaches carved from the coral. We soon came to a natural bridge also curved from the force of the waters smashing against the rocks. Truly amazing and worth a closer look. Continuing on our discovery tour we rode through cactus lined dirt roads and found unbelievable rock formations. Then we stopped and were given a panoramic view of the island as we climbed to the top of the rocks.

Looking at the rocks we saw big circular round holes worn through from the action of currents when Aruba was at the bottom of the sea. As we explored more rock formations we saw Indian cave paintings from a time when the Arawak Indians in-



habited the island. Thank you God for bring us to this Island gem of the Caribbean.

We rode on and found ourselves riding through high coral walls with steps leading up to carved caves filled with religious statues and candles. They were worshipping places of the Aruban peoples of yesteryear to the present. We went past their houses and through little communities of people working and going about their daily chores.

We stopped at a large cave to escape the heat of the afternoon. As we walked around there was a large hole in the ceiling of the cave that let plenty of light in. A natural place for people to seek relief from the elements. Next we rode farther south we came to a spectacular vision of a clam shaped beach known as Baby Beach. As we rode up the west side of the island we went through little clusters of houses and small communities.


It is our fiftieth anniversary this year and there's no other place that we would want to be than Aruba. We visited here twenty times. We brought our children on many of those visits to enjoy our timeshare at the Costa Linda Resort. Sharing the natural beauty of the island and the hospitality of its people. Always being welcomed back with Bon Bini, your home."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

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## Food culture in Aruba



**(Oranjestad)** - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

### Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

#### Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee

or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

### Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands\* in-

clude sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

### Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

### (Religious) Holidays



Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again



largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham\* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

### Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may eas-

ily find around the island. These include, Saco\*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

**\*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao**

**\*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)**

**\*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.**

**Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba**

## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive?

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## The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

**(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.**

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curaçao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the

harsh treatment to which they were subjected to. It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

### How Nanzi fooled the king

One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi

too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold. “Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A



herd of sheep walking by? “Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said.

“Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and started walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with

his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!”

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's throne and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king. □

**Story and pictures are from “Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)” by Nilda Pinto.**



# Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

## Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

## About the Anchor

### Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

### Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

### Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas

the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

### Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

### How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba;

Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

### Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam

Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

### The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □

# CROSSWORD

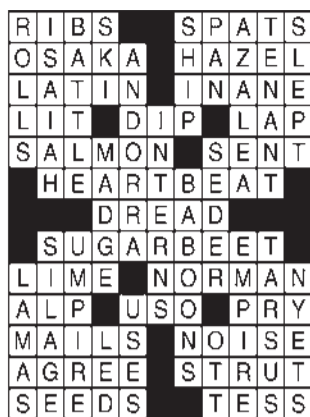
By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

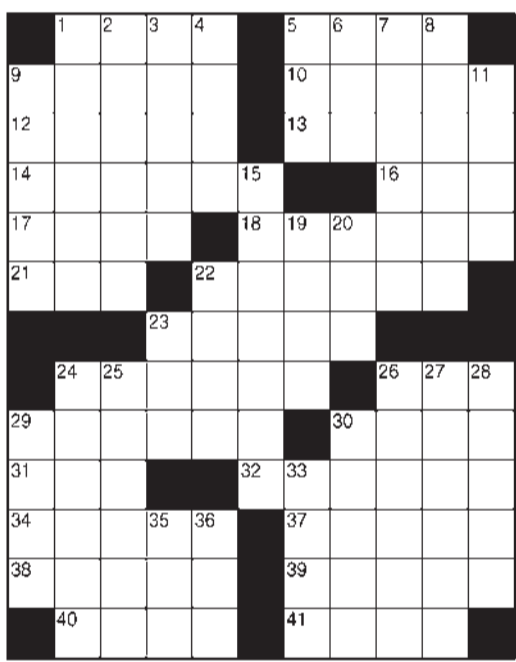
- 40 Not at home  
1 Kismet  
5 Angel's topper  
9 Whoop it up  
10 Geriatrics study  
12 Portents  
13 Bulgaria's capital  
14 Poland's capital  
16 Spinning toy  
17 Different  
18 Greece's capital  
21 Ruby of film  
22 Isn't color-fast  
23 Hold up  
24 Some tours  
26 Ewe's mate  
29 Austria's capital  
30 Domesticated  
31 Neither Dem. nor Rep.  
32 Czech Republic's capital  
34 France's capital  
37 Celeb roster  
38 Unadorned  
39 Parking penalties

## DOWN

- 1 Like mares and fillies  
2 Reluctant  
3 Keyed up  
4 Snow Queen in "Frozen"  
5 Possesses  
6 In the past  
7 Raised  
8 Burger toppers  
9 Did galley work  
11 Apertures  
15 Geography class prop  
19 Pekoe and oolong  
20 "You there!"  
22 Noggin  
23 Singer Henley  
24 Toy-filled target  
25 Change, as boundaries  
26 Furious  
27 Entertains  
28 Gets together  
29 Bigwigs  
30 Shire of "Rocky"  
33 Flat floater  
35 S&L offering  
36 Cloud setting



## Saturday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

## 5-6 CRYPTOQUOTE

AJQ, AUMH ZDJT JTQ UZDHM

AUTZD UK ZDH QHJM, LJTZF

RF ZU KHHB AUFZ JBYIH.

— KHTTHB DRCFUT

Saturday's Cryptoquote: YOU MUST LEARN TO BE STILL IN THE MIDST OF ACTIVITY AND TO BE VIBRANTLY ALIVE IN REPOSE. — INDIRA GANDHI

## Cruise ship Schedule: July 30 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	30	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1

## Cruise ship Schedule: August 6 - 14 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	06	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	07	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	13	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
THU	14	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	08.00	18.00	C	1

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

### Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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## Blood tests for Alzheimer's may be coming to your doctor's office. Here's what to know

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AP Medical Writer

New blood tests could help doctors diagnose Alzheimer's disease faster and more accurately, researchers reported Sunday – but some appear to work far better than others.

It's tricky to tell if memory problems are caused by Alzheimer's. That requires confirming one of the disease's hallmark signs — buildup of a sticky protein called beta-amyloid — with a hard-to-get brain scan or uncomfortable spinal tap. Many patients instead are diagnosed based on symptoms and cognitive exams. Labs have begun offering a variety of tests that can detect certain signs of Alzheimer's in blood. Scientists are excited by their potential but the tests aren't widely used yet because there's little data to guide doctors about which kind to order and when. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration hasn't formally approved any of them and there's little insurance coverage.

"What tests can we trust?" asked Dr. Suzanne Schindler, a neurologist at Washington University in St. Louis who's part of a research project examining that. While some are very

accurate, "other tests are not much better than a flip of a coin."

Demand for earlier Alzheimer's diagnosis is increasing

More than 6 million people in the United States and millions more around the world have Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia. Its telltale "biomarkers" are brain-clogging amyloid plaques and abnormal tau protein that leads to neuron-killing tangles.

New drugs, Leqembi and Kisunla, can modestly slow worsening symptoms by removing gunky amyloid from the brain. But they only work in the earliest stages of Alzheimer's and proving patients qualify in time can be difficult. Measuring amyloid in spinal fluid is invasive. A special PET scan to spot plaques is costly and getting an appointment can take months.

Even specialists can struggle to tell if Alzheimer's or something else is to blame for a patient's symptoms.

"I have patients not infrequently who I am convinced have Alzheimer's disease and I do testing and it's negative," Schindler said.

New study suggests blood tests for Alzheimer's can be simpler and faster. □

## Classifieds

### Casa del Mar

BEACH RESORT

#### Casa del Mar Sales Inventory Week 30

##### WEEK 29

Ambassador Unit  
(one bedroom)  
Price range: \$3,000.00 - \$4,500.00

Presidential suites  
(two bedrooms)  
Price range: \$8,760.00

##### WEEK 30

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# Robert Downey Jr. is returning to 'Avengers' films as a villain in 1 of Marvel's Comic-Con twists

By **KAITLYN HUAMANI**  
**Associated Press**

Marvel Studios returned to San Diego Comic-Con with dancing Deadpool variants and a choir for a panel that included news about the next two "Avengers" films and surprise guests, including Harrison Ford and Robert Downey Jr.

Downey is returning to Marvel's films, but not as Iron Man. He'll play the villain Victor Von Doom, or Doctor Doom, in at least one of the upcoming "Avengers" movies. Downey kicked off Marvel's movie successes in "Iron Man" and played the popular character in nine films, but on Saturday appeared wearing Dr. Doom's mask and a green cloak.

"New mask, same task," Downey said to frenzied cheers.

The Russo brothers, who will be directing the movie featuring Downey, said his appearance in the film is "proof of the unimaginable possibilities in the Marvel multi-universe."

The reveal capped a jubilant return by Marvel to Comic-Con's Hall H.

Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige kicked off the panel by saying that due to this weekend's success of "Deadpool & Wolverine," the sprawling Marvel Cinematic Universe had now topped \$30 billion in box-office earnings. In a nod to a scene in the movie, a choir sang Madonna's "Like a Prayer" before Feige spoke.

"Deadpool & Wolverine," released Thursday, has already broken one record and could shatter more in its opening weekend. Feige used Saturday's panel to chart the course ahead for the MCU, revealing Ford's character in the next "Captain America" film and revealing "Avengers: Secret Wars" and "Avengers: Doomsday" as the titles of the next two films in the epic superhero team-up series. "Doomsday" will hit theaters in 2026.

Feige said all the actors introduced Saturday would appear in the upcoming "Avengers" movies, which

will be directed by Joe and Anthony Russo. The brothers guided the "Avengers" franchise through its sprawling storyline capped by "Avengers: Endgame" in

that President Thaddeus "Thunderbolt" Ross, played by Ford, is hoping to rebuild the Avengers with Mackie's Sam Wilson. It also showed Ford's character transform

in love with comics."



**Kevin Feige, from left, Joe Russo, Robert Downey Jr., and Anthony Russo attend a panel for Marvel Studios during Comic-Con International on Saturday, July 27, 2024, in San Diego.**

**Associated Press.**

2019 that included the death of Downey's Tony Stark/Iron Man character.

"When we directed "Avengers: Endgame," Joe and I truly believed that it was the end of the road for us in the Marvel Cinematic Universe because we had put all of our passion, our love, our imagination into "The Winter Soldier," into "Civil War," into "Infinity War," climaxing all of it with "Avengers: Endgame," Anthony Russo said. "That four movie run was incredible and it left us creatively spent with all of our emotions on the film. In the time since, through a very special story, Joe and I have come to potentially see a road forward with you."

They called "Secret Wars" the "biggest story that Marvel Comics ever told," and Joe said it was the first comic book run he read as a child that made him "fall

from speaking on panels. The cast of "Captain America: Brave New World" — Giancarlo Esposito, Tim Blake Nelson, Danny Ramirez and Anthony Mackie — joined the stage first and teased details about the upcoming film. Esposito revealed that he will be playing the villain, Seth Voelker, also known as Sidewinder.

When asked about what it was like to join a Marvel project, Esposito said it was a "dream come true."

"When your dreams come true and you get the call, you walk through the door," he continued. "I have a great deal of gratitude for all the fans who really had this dream come true, because it was fan casting that linked us together."

The cast then stepped aside to share a scene from the movie on the big screen, which revealed

into the Red Hulk. Ford joined the panel after fans were treated to clips from the movie and flexed his muscles to the roaring crowd. He also expressed excitement over his latest role, saying, "I am delighted, and proud to become a member of the Marvel Universe."

The cast and director of "Thunderbolts(asterisk)" also surprised fans with a short clip from the movie. Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Florence Pugh, Sebastian Stan and David Harbour (in full costume and speaking in character as the Red Guardian at first) stormed the stage and shared some more details about their characters. The film is slated to be released in May 2025.

The final film teased at the panel was "The Fantastic Four," starring Pedro Pascal, Vanessa Kirby, Joseph Quinn and Ebon Moss-Bachrach.

The movie will begin filming on Tuesday in London, Feige said.

He said the film will hit theaters in almost exactly one year in July 2025.

Following a video director Matt Shakman created specifically for Comic-Con that featured the cast in full '60s glory, he and Feige revealed the official title of the film, "The Fantastic Four: First Steps."

The session included no mention of Jonathan Majors, who played the villain Kang the Conqueror and was previously a major part of Marvel's "Avengers" plans. The actor was fired by the studio after he was convicted in December of assaulting a former girlfriend. He was sentenced to a yearlong counseling program in April and avoided jail time.

Marvel already took over Hall H on Thursday with an electric panel celebrating "Deadpool & Wolverine," in which the audience was treated to a full screening and surprise guests joining stars Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman on stage.

The mounting enthusiasm for the film at Comic-Con was reflected across the country as the fans rushed to see it in theaters, securing the film as the new record holder for the Thursday preview for an R-rated movie. The comic book film sold an estimated \$38.5 million worth of movie tickets from preview screenings Thursday.

The "Deadpool & Wolverine" success woke up a sleepy year for Marvel and assuaged worries about its box-office underperformance in late 2023. The superhero factory hit a record low in November with the launch of "The Marvels," which opened with just \$47 million. □



## Tua Tagovailoa eager to help Dolphins end playoff drought after signing extension



**Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa speaks during a news conference at the NFL football team's training camp Sunday, July 28, 2024, in Miami Gardens, Fla.**

Associated Press.

### Associated Press

His new contract signed, Tua Tagovailoa acknowledged the heightened expectations tied to its value.

The Miami Dolphins' fifth-year quarterback will no longer need to worry about his future with the club after he signed a four-year extension on Sunday. The deal will pay Tagovailoa an average of \$53.1 million per year beginning next season. He also received a \$42 million signing bonus.

"Now that all of this is done and this is behind us, we know that heavy is the crown," Tagovailoa said. "Whoever is wearing that, right now, I'm the highest-paid employee in this office. I've to get my —whatever — together. I've got to get that right and moving the guys in the direction that we need to go."

The deal ended months of negotiations and questions about whether the Dolphins would make a long-term investment in Tagovailoa.

After being the fifth overall selection in the 2020 draft, Tagovailoa has experienced peaks and valleys. As a result, Dolphins management took longer to entrust Tagovailoa with an extension than Cincinnati did with Joe Burrow or the Los Angeles Chargers with Justin Herbert. Those two QBs were picked along with Tagovailoa in the first round of the 2020 draft.

"There are just so many semantics and hoops that you have to go through to get something like that done, especially maneuvering

other contracts around," Tagovailoa said. "I'm happy that we got this thing done. It's unbelievable."

Dolphins fans were allowed to attend workouts for the first time in the 2024 training camp schedule on Sunday, and Tagovailoa greeted them with the catchphrase "Show me the money" from the 1996 movie "Jerry Maguire."

"Somebody told me that I wouldn't say it," Tagovailoa said.

Tagovailoa overcame a difficult 2022 season, when a concussion sidelined him for four regular-season games and a playoff loss against Buffalo. He played in all 17 games last season and threw for 29 touchdowns and a league-best 4,624 yards.

"My perspective — happy but also expected it to get done," Dolphins coach Mike McDaniel said. "And now that it's done it's about moving forward because maybe it's a handshake and a smile but not a celebration. It's a cool point for the organization to move forward and moving forward we are."

McDaniel has been arguably Tagovailoa's biggest supporter since he took over in 2022. With McDaniel devising schemes to suit Tagovailoa's skills, the Dolphins averaged a league-best 401 yards per game last season.

"Word gets around quick and I don't think he knows that I know. I've been told from several birdies that are here in the facility that are upstairs as well that he went



**Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa (1) does drills during the NFL football team's training camp Sunday, July 28, 2024, in Miami Gardens, Fla.**

Associated Press.

to bat for me," Tagovailoa said of McDaniel's role in the negotiations.

The Tagovailoa-McDaniel link will face added scrutiny, especially with the Dolphins'

lengthy drought of postseason success. Miami's wild-card round loss at Kansas City last season extended to 24 years its gap between playoff wins. □



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## Simone Biles shakes off a calf injury to dominate during Olympic gymnastics qualifying

By **WILL GRAVES**  
AP National Writer

The similarities were striking. Maybe fitting in the birthplace of déjà vu.

Simone Biles sitting off to the side at the Olympics. USA Gymnastics team doctor Marcia Faustin by her side. A look of concern on both their faces.

Three years ago in Tokyo, the scene ended with Biles removing herself from multiple finals to protect her safety — prompting an international discussion about mental health. Yet Biles is determined to write a different ending to the story in Paris. The 27-year-old American star wasn't dealing with any sort of block or trauma but something far more common to gymnasts, particularly ones who have been doing this two decades.

Just like in Tokyo, Biles and Faustin briefly disappeared. Unlike Tokyo, Biles returned not in a sweatsuit but with her left leg heavily taped after tweaking her calf during her warmup on floor exercise. She spent the rest of the afternoon walking around with a noticeable limp everywhere except the competition floor.

The woman who has been saying over and over and over that this isn't 2021 went out and proved it on Sunday inside star-studded Bercy Arena, shaking off what U.S. coach Cecile Landi described as a minor calf issue to post the top score in the all-around and put whatever lingering ghosts there may be from Tokyo in the rearview mirror.

Biles finished at 59.566, well clear of reigning Olympic champion and teammate Sunisa Lee, saluting the crowd after her dismount on uneven bars, her final event. She hopped off the



**Simone Biles of United States, has her ankle taped after competing on the uneven bars during a women's artistic gymnastics qualification round at Bercy Arena at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Sunday, July 28, 2024, in Paris, France.**

Associated Press

podium, danced with good friend Jordan Chiles and has no plans to stop her quest for gold in Tuesday's team final and Thursday's individual all-around.

"It was pretty amazing, 59.5," Landi said. "Not perfect so she can improve even (but) ... just really good."

Landi said the issue popped up a couple of weeks ago and she described it as minor. There was no discussion of Biles pulling out. Instead, Landi and her husband, Laurent — who have long served as Biles' personal coach in Texas — encouraged her to take a breath and keep going as Laurent applied heavy doses of tape to her leg.

"We told her to remind herself, like she's capable of doing it," Landi said. "She knows she's got it and it's OK and then she did. So, really excited for her."

The issue hardly slowed her down. Biles posted the highest score on floor and vault

— both after the injury — as she tries to add to her career total of seven Olympic medals.

The only event final Biles is likely to miss is uneven bars, where she opted not to attempt a unique skill she submitted to the International Gymnastics Federation on Friday. She can still opt to do it during the team final, opening the door for it to be entered into the sport's Code of Points with her name attached.

Yet that appeared to be far from Biles' mind when she finished up her bars set. Instead, there was a mixture of relief and the urge to soak in the moment following her dismount at what could be the final competition of her unparalleled career.

The same could be said of her teammates after the heavily favored Americans finished at 172.296, more than five points clear of Italy (166.861) through two of five subdivisions as they

search for what they're calling "redemption" following a runner-up finish to Russia three years ago.

"They're happy and relieved," Landi said. "Day 1, now moving on to team finals, all-around finals, a couple event finals hopefully." Landi said Biles' leg was feeling better as she moved through the events and expects her to be available going forward.

The reality is the Americans — especially with Russia out of the mix due to the war in Ukraine — don't need to rely on her as much as they have in previous Games.

Biles, Lee and Chiles went 1-2-3 in the all-around during early qualifying, though Chiles will miss the all-around final due to rules that limit countries to entering two athletes per competition. There's a chance Chiles will make the floor exercise final should she finish in the top eight. Lee is practically a lock for the beam and bars

finals, with 2020 floor exercise champion Jade Carey in good position to join Biles in the vault final.

That is, of course, if Biles is healthy.

The injury added a dash of drama to an event that's become a must-see for athletes and celebrities alike.

The stands were buzzing and filled with stars. Tom Cruise posed for selfies while waiting for Biles to emerge. Snoop Dogg had front-row seats, and Ariana Grande, Jessica Chastain, John Legend and Anna Wintour were also on hand.

Biles arrived in Paris as the face of the U.S. Olympic movement and maybe the Olympics themselves. The buzz around her return to the Games has been palpable, with NBC leaning heavily into her star power by splashing Biles' face on countless promotions in the lead-up to Paris.

Her gravitational pull is real. Athletes across the Olympic spectrum have said they want to make it a point to catch the most decorated gymnast of all time put on a show that is uniquely hers. Among them: LeBron James and the U.S. men's basketball team, which was busy Sunday with their Olympic opener.

James & Co. may have a chance to catch Biles later this week, provided her calf cooperates, hardly a given in a sport where the injury rate is nearly 100%.

Biles has spent the last 11 years largely avoiding the kind of physical setbacks that have ended the Olympic journeys of so many others. Not for Biles — not yet anyway — as her chance at a golden send-off remains very much in the offing even if she literally is now forced to take it one ginger step at a time. □